(c) The State Governments have asked to ensure that all the hazardous chemicals either in bulk storage or in processes, are promptly disposed off by the management. It has also been suggested that progress of the disposal should be closely monitored by the inspection authorities.

Connection of District Head-Quarters of Mizoram Telegraphically with Aizwal

149. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the District Headquarters of Mizoram are not connected telegraphically with other States and with Aizwal, the Capital of Mizoram;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to connect at least the District Headquarters telegraphically ;

(c) what is the amount earmarked for the purpose; and

(d) by when they are likely to be connected

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Of the three District Headquarters, Aizwal and Lungleh are connected to other States *viz*, Aizwal with Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal and Delhi, and Lungleh with Assam and Meghalaya. Lungleh and Saiha are not connected to Aizwal.

(b) UHF projects are under way and, on completion, all the District Headquarters will be interconnected with each other and also linked to Aizwal.

(c) The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 24,04,300.

(d) By 1986.

Telephone Exchanges in Mizoram

150. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number and capacity of telephone exchanges in Mizoram (Exchange and District wise) as on 31st October, 1985;

(b) the number of telephone connections released through different exchanges, exchange-wise;

(c) the number of persons who are on the waiting list, exchange and district-wise ;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to expand the telephone network and convert the existing exchanges into electronic exchanges ;

(e) whether the three districts of Mizoram namely Aizwal, Lungleh and Saiha have been connected by telephones; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps Government propose to take in this regard and by when they are likely to be connected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The required information is given in statement.

(d) Existing Aizwal and Linglei Exchanges are proposed to be replaced by Electronic Exchanges and Saiha by Automatic Exchange in 7th. five year plan.

(e) & (f) Telephone facility is available in the three districts. Also Aizwal is connected by Trunk dialling facility to Shillong & New Delhi. UHF Links interconnecting these districts are likely to be commissioned in 1986-87 facilitating direct communication amongst them.